

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OCLR, TBIO, BF

SUBJECT: NMFS BLUEFIN TUNA SPAWNING STUDIES ACROSS STRAITS
OF FLORIDA

REF: STATE 53488

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF PLANNED RESEARCH REFERRED REF-
TEL SAME SUBJECT:

2. INITIALLY, THREE CRUISES VESSEL GEORGE M. BOWERS ARE
PLANNED IN MARCH AND APRIL. CRUISES ARE NUMBERED NOS. 126,
127, AND 129. DURING CRUISE NO. 126, ONLY PLANKTON SAMPLING
GEAR (NEUSTON AND BONGO NETS) WILL BE FISHED. DURING
CRUISE NO. 127, SAME GEAR WILL BE FISHED DURING TRANSECTS,
NIGHT-LIGHT SAMPLING GEAR WILL BE USED ON NIGHT STATION,
AND TUNA LONGLINE FISHING GEAR (APPROX. 100 HOOKS) WILL BE
SET. DURING CRUISE NO. 129, SAME GEAR WILL BE USED AS ON
CRUISE NO. 127; ADDITIONALLY, HYDROACOUSTICAL TUNA TAGS
WILL BE FOLLOWED. TAGS WILL BE PLACED IN LIVE FISH CAP-
TURED BY LONGLINE FISHING.

3. GENERAL WORK PLAN IS TO SURVEY "STANDARD" TRANSECT

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LINES TRAVERSING STRAITS OF FLORIDA. A STATION IS LOCATED

AT EASTERN END OF EACH TRANSECT AND IS NUMBERED TO CORRESPOND TO TRANSECT NUMBERS. PROCEEDING FROM NORTH TO SOUTH,

TRANSECTS ARE NUMBERED ONE THRU FIVE. EACH TRANSECT WILL BE A STRAIGHT LINE FROM MIAMI TO AN END POINT ON THE BAHAMAS SIDE OF THE STRAITS OF FLORIDA. THE END POINTS OF THE TRANSECTS ARE AS FOLLOWS: (1) 25 DEG 43 MIN N. LAT AND 79 DEG 20 MIN W. LONG; (2) 25 DEG 31 MIN N. LAT AND 79 DEG 19 MIN W. LONG; (3) 24 DEG 56 MIN N. LAT AND 79 DEG 13 MIN W. LONG; (4) 24 DEG 23 MIN N. LAT AND 79 DEG 35 MIN

W. LONG; AND (5) 24 DEG 07 MIN N. LAT AND 80 DEG 15 MIN W. LONG. ON CRUISE 126, ONLY TRANSECT ONE WILL BE FOLLOWED; ON CRUISE 127, ONLY TRANSECTS ONE, FOUR AND FIVE; AND ON CRUISE 129, ALL TRANSECTS.

4. THERE WILL BE NO PORT CALLS, LANDING OR EXCHANGE OF PERSONNEL, OR BUNKERING IN BAHAMAS DURING CRUISES.

BOWERS WILL CARRY CREW OF 4 AND 6 SCIENTISTS. ALL ARE CITIZENS OF U.S. RADIO FREQUENCIES AVAILABLE TO BOWERS ARE 2182, 2613, 2670, 4139.5, 6210.4, 8799.2, 12424.5, AND 17274.5 KHZ AS WELL AS VHF CHANNELS 13 AND 16. FREQUENCIES WILL REMAIN SAME DURING ALL THREE BOWERS CRUISES. RADIO WATCHES WILL BE AT 1030 AND 1530 HOURS ON ALL CRUISES. DATE OF ABOVE CRUISES AS FOLLOWS:

CRUISE 126 - MARCH 18-19, 25-26

CRUISE 127 - APRIL 1-18

CRUISE 129 - MAY 20 - JUNE 20

6. NOAA VESSEL VIRGINIA KEY, WILL BE USED TO SUPPLEMENT WORK OF GEORGE M. BOWERS DURING FOLLOWING TWO-DAY PERIODS: APRIL 22-23, JUNE 24-25, JULY 1-2, AND JULY 8-9. CAPTAIN OF VIRGINIA KEY IS BURNHAM S. NEILL; CREW OF THREE MEN PLUS TWO SCIENTISTS WILL BE ABOARD. RADIO WATCHES ON KEY WILL BE SAME AS DURING BOWERS CRUISES, I.E., 1020 AND 1530 HOURS. RADIO FREQUENCIES ABOARD KEY WILL BE: UPPER SIDEBAND - 4406.2 KHZ AND 8799.2 KHZ. VHF CHANNELS: 6, 13, 16. VIRGINIA KEY CRUISES WILL FOLLOW TRANSECT AND UNCLASSIFIED

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STATION PLAN DESCRIBED FOR BOWERS.

7. CHIEF SCIENTISTS FOR THESE CRUISES WILL BE DR. WILLIAM RICHARDS AND DR. GRANT BEARDSLEY. INGERSOLL

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